

Minutes  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
May 21, 2008

**Board Members Present:** Chairperson Ann McKown, District Court Judge; John Lee, Community Corrections; David Saacks, District Attorney; Marcia Owen, Victim Services; Sadie Alger, Substance Abuse; Michael Page, Durham County Commissioner; Alan Goldstein, Criminal Defense Attorney; Carolyn Titus, Deputy County Manager;

**Board Members Absent:** Vice Chairman Wes Crabtree, Office of the Sheriff; Secretary Robin Odom, NC Department of Labor; Ellen Holliman, Mental Health; Kenneth Titus, Superior Court Judge; Fredericka Carver, Member At Large; Lafonda General, Member At Large; Riley Butler, Community-Based Corrections Program; Gayle Harris, Public Health; Deborah Schwartz, Member At Large; Antoinette Hilliard, Public Defender's Office; DeWarren Langley, Member At Large; Gary Thompson, Community Based Corrections Program;

**Staff:** Gudrun Parmer, Robin Heath, and Jonie Coss

**Guests:** Conrad Strader, Community Corrections Division II; Theron Dennis, Community Corrections; Dianne Smith, TASC; Ann Oshel, Durham's Adult System of Care, Robert Guy, Division of Community Corrections; Glenn Mills, Division of Community Corrections

**Introductions:** Chairperson Ann McKown welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** February 20, 2008 minutes were presented for approval. Minutes approved without corrections.

**CJPP Continuation Funding Update:** Gudrun and Conrad Strader provided an update on recent developments regarding CJPP continuation funding. Conrad stated the Governor put the funding in his budget for next year at 9.2 million dollars and it passed through the legislative review with no problems. Gudrun mentioned the Department of Correction completed the Legislative Report and the review was very good. She acknowledged the review committee recommended adding CJPP funding back into the budget as continuation funding. She suggested if anyone were interested in seeing the review, it was available online, and she would provide the web address.

**Program Update:** Gudrun offered a Program Update. She explained the layout of the report and the numbers for each program. She pointed out DRC admissions were still very low. She acknowledged most the referrals came from probation violations; however, most of those were arrested and incarcerated. She stated many referral sources were not identifying clients who could be sent to CJRC. Gudrun stated that with the high number of probation violations in Durham, there really should be no reason why DRC numbers couldn't be higher. She stated the numbers for Second Chance continue to grow and most of them were referred by TASC.

Gudrun informed the board CJRC received a second reallocation grant for \$5,390.00. The grant would pay for gang intervention material, bus tickets, office furniture, and a laser printer.

She mentioned the CIMS database developed by the IT department was currently in the testing phase. She stated CJRC staff was working closely with IT to identify any issues and the target date to go live was July 1.

Gudrun stated CJRC continued to explore other options for the men's substance abuse halfway house. She stated the plan was to convert the house into a transitional living house. She pointed out that it would not be used exclusively for men in CJRC's substance abuse treatment, and that the house would serve a variety of clients, but continue to serve only men. She stated the contract for managing the house would go out for bid soon.

Gudrun reported Project Restore was currently under way and the class would be building houses with Habitat for Humanity. She announced the graduation was scheduled for June 20 and she extended an invitation to the board to attend. She confirmed the next class would start in August.

Gudrun presented an update for the Transitions Program. She announced it had finished two cycles, and the third class would be graduating May 22. She acknowledged there were a few issues to be worked out with the jail, but overall it was going well. Robin Heath presented a brief overview of the program.

Gudrun confirmed an official announcement for the CAGI grant, which Durham and Raleigh received from the US Department of Justice. She said she received an email from Buddy Howell congratulating the Reentry Program for being mentioned in the announcement and stated the Department of Justice now recognized it as an effective program.

Gudrun announced the County Manager would present the 08/09 budget to the County Commissioners on May 27. She stated the budget included an expansion of the CJRC employment program and one of the new components would serve anyone with a criminal record. She stated an additional laborer position set aside for an offender in the General Services department is requested. She added if the requests were approved, one of the changes would be for the Durham Chamber Employment Specialist to focus exclusively on the connection to and with employers. She believed with the additional piece, CJRC would be able to provide a variety of employment services to more individuals.

Mr. Saaks requested to have a discussion concerning the DRC numbers. He stated if the numbers were needed to justify the program it would be a problem, because there were too many factors that would affect the outcome of a case. Mr. Saaks explained the normal plea agreement and the process of the offender going through the system. He explained getting the offender to agree to DRC was extremely hard. He stated most offenders would prefer to serve their active sentence. The board held a discussion regarding DRC as a sanction, the supervision levels of offenders, and how DRC numbers could increase. Several ideas were raised; however, those ideas would require changes in legislation.

**Division of Community Correction:** Mr. Guy, Director of Community Corrections extended his appreciation for the invitation to attend the meeting. He presented an overview of the changes and concerns for Durham's Community Corrections Department. He stated it had been a very trying eight weeks for the agency, particularly Durham Co and Wake Co. He acknowledged some things had happened to cause the agency to go into crisis mode. He explained they had examined all facets of community corrections and had asked the National Institute of Corrections to come in and

give them an outside look at DCC policies, the training program, case management, and resources. He stated two parallel processes were taking place: one was the internal investigation and the other was a request for NIC to look at other areas of the state, and compare them to what DCC uncovered in Durham and Raleigh. The finished report would be given to Secretary Beck, Governor Easley, and the General Assembly. He added the report would be made public, however they did not expect the report to be finished until mid-August. He explained, as things developed, they would be releasing information from DCC indicating what had occurred. He mentioned several concerns with Durham were mismanagement, the high employee turnover, and training. He pointed out the first objective had to be public safety. He stressed the need to get the population under control. He stated there were outside supervisors in Durham helping to accomplish this. He declared they were looking at case files and identifying offenders who needed to be seen and to find out what had happened to these cases. He stated that the review was completed and given to Glenn Mills for his review and recommendation for the next step in the process. He stated there were many vacancies and he was personally conducting the interviews to fill them. At this time, he had hired eight new probation officers and they were currently in training. He stated they were cleaning up the caseloads, with high-risk offenders being first priority. He added AOC, DOC, and the Department of Justice were all meeting to make necessary recommendations and changes. Mr. Guy stated it would take a team effort and the support from each other to make the office run more smoothly. Judge McKown suggested some emergency staff until staffing was under control, she also stated she was concerned about the number of cases and caseloads a probation officer carried. Mr. Guy explained that concern was addressed by pulling probation officers from other counties, but did say that was part of the plan as mentioned earlier. He said the tough part was having the work force to work the cases. He said that with the new hires there was only so much they could do until they were fully trained to handle cases. Mr. Guy closed by stating as things were reviewed and worked out, reports would be released for review, and we would start to see the very issues, that were being raised, addressed. He added the final report would have it all: the good, the bad, and the ugly; but most importantly it will have the solutions that DOC controls, and it will have the issues that were out of the DOC control.

Gudrun suggested that new probation officers receive training on local resources. She believed due to the high turnover in probation, many officers did not know that CJRC exist. She thinks many of the local resources are underutilized because of the lack of training. Mr. Guy added it had been one of the issues identified and he assured the board that would be addressed.

Gudrun pointed out due to time restraints she was unable to report on the Subcommittees; however, there was a summary in the packet for review. She also invited Ann Oshel to come back and present her overview on the Adult System of Care at the next board meeting.

Gudrun extended her appreciation for the members' attendance and announced the next meeting of the CJPP Advisory Board would be Wednesday, August 20, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.